

## Message Text

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ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 OES-07 CG-00 SS-15 /053 W

-----004246 130814Z /11

P R 130510Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6608

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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DEPT PLEASE PASS TO DOT FOR ALLEN/TPI-42

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, ETRN, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT: USSR VISIT OF US

ICE-TRANSITING DELEGATION (05.0502)

REFS: A. 77 MOSCOW 17567, B. 77 STATE 308847, C. MOSCOW 0432

SUMMARY. SCST PROVIDED JANUARY 10 THE PROGRAM FOR PROPOSED US ICE-TRANSITING DELEGATION VISIT FEBRUARY 7-19. ON JANUARY 11, SCICOUNS REVIEWED PROPOSED PROGRAM WITH AYKAZYAN OF SCST, POINTING OUT THAT IT DID NOT ACCORD WITH PACKAGE ALEKSENKO PUT FORWARD IN DECEMBER. AT SCICOUNS' URGENT REQUEST, AYKAZYAN AGREED TO TRY TO REVISE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE ITEMS PREVIOUSLY OFFERED BY ALEKSENKO. AYKAZYAN REQUESTED US RESPONSE TO SEMINAR TOPICS PROPOSED BY SOVIETS. EMBASSY CONSIDERS PRESENT PROGRAM UNSATISFACTORY AND RECOMMENDS USDEL VISIT BE POSTPONED PENDING SOVIET COMPLIANCE WITH PREVIOUS AGREEMENT TO ARRANGE SUBSTANTIVE VISIT PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED ON JANUARY 10 PROGRAM FOR LONG-PLANNED US ICE-TRANSITING DELEGATION VISIT.

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METAL'NIKOV AND ISHEHENKO OF SCST AND SINITSYN OF MORFLOT DISCUSSED PROGRAM WITH EMBASSY OFFICER. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF PROGRAM TRANSMITTED IN REF C.

2. PROPOSED PROGRAM CALLS FOR USDEL VISIT FEBRUARY 7-19 AND INCLUDES TWO 3-DAY TRIPS ON SOVIET ICE-BREAKERS, ONE IN THE SEA OF AZOV, THE OTHER IN THE

BALTIC. MORFLOT REP STATED THAT IN THE AZOV SEA USDEL WOULD GO ABOARD A KAPITAN KOSOLAPOV-CLASS VESSEL. FYI. IT IS A SHALLOW-DRAFT, DIESEL-ELECTRIC VESSEL DISPLACING 1700 TONS BUILT AT THE WARTSILA YARD IN HELSINKI 1975-76 AND INCORPORATING THE "WARTSILA AIR-BUBBLER" SYSTEM. END FYI. MORFLOT, HOWEVER, WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY BALTIC ICEBREAKER TO BE SEEN, ADDING HASTILY THAT IT IS SO NEW THAT IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DELIVERED. PRESSED BY EMBASSY OFFICER, SINITSYN INSISTED THAT SHIP WOULD BE READY TO RECEIVE USDEL BUT HE CONCEDED THAT IT TOO WAS OF FINNISH, NOT SOVIET, CONSTRUCTION.

3. DURING JANUARY 10 MEETING, WE CALLED TO SOVIET ATTENTION ABSENCE OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT ITEMS FROM THE PROGRAM FOR USDEL THAT SOVIET TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT CO-CHAIRMAN ALEKSENKO OF SCST HAD OFFERED IN DECEMBER, (REF A). DISTINGUISHED BY THEIR ABSENCE FROM THE SOVIET AGENDA WERE:

- TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AT THE ARCTIC/ANTARCTIC INSTITUTE;

- A TECHNICAL SEMINAR-WORKSHOP AS PROPOSED IN APPENDIX I, "U.S. PROPOSED AGENDA," TO THE RECORD OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MARINE TRANSPORTATION OF THE PROTOCOL OF THE FOURTH TRANSPORTATION JCM;

- A VISIT TO THE "ARTIFICIAL ICE BASIN" RESEARCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FACILITY IN LENINGRAD, AND

- A VISIT TO A RIVER ICEBREAKER EMPLOYING NEW "PITCHING" TECHNIQUES.

METAL'NIKOV, IN RESPONSE, STATED THAT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AGREED UPON AT THE LAST JCM AND BETWEEN SCICONS AND ALEKSENKO IN DECEMBER. METAL'NIKOV ALSO ASSERTED THAT THE PRIMARY AIM OF USDEL VISIT - IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECORD OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MARINE TRANSPORTATION - IS TO PREPARE THE PROGRAM FOR ICE-TRANSITING COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR. HE INDICATED THAT THE SOVIETS PLANNED TO HOLD TECHNICAL SEMINARS LATER, FOLLOWING AGREEMENT ON THE GENERAL 1978 PROGRAM OF COOPERATION IN MARINE TRANSPORT.

4. SOVIETS RESPONDED TO DOT'S PROPOSAL (REF B) TO DIVIDE USDEL IN TWO BY BREAKING PROGRAM INTO TWO UNEQUAL PORTIONS. FIRST PART, FEBRUARY 7-15, CONSISTS OF VISITS TO ICEBREAKERS. SECOND SEGMENT, FEBRUARY 16-19, IN ESSENCE CONSISTS OF MEETING FOR ADMINISTRATORS, NOT ICE-TRANSITING SPECIALISTS.

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NSAE-00 OES-07 CG-00 SS-15 /053 W  
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5. DURING JANUARY 11 MEETING WITH AYKAZYAN OF SCST, SCICOUNS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH VISIT PROGRAM. STRESSING THAT IT DID NOT CORRESPOND WITH THE PACKAGE OFFERED BY ALEKSENKO IN DECEMBER, SCICOUNS SUGGESTED THAT PRESENT PROGRAM WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY SUBSTANTIVE TO MAKE USDEL VISIT WORTHWHILE. HE REQUESTED SCST AND MORFLOP TO ADD THE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AND VISITS DELETED FROM THE AGENDA PROPOSED BY ALEKSENKO. SCICOUNS ALSO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF USDEL OBTAINING ACCESS TO BEST SOVIET ICEBREAKER TECHNOLOGY IN VIEW OF US DISAPPOINTMENT AT SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO NUCLEAR ICEBREAKERS. AYKAZYAN AT OUTSET INSISTED THAT PRESENT PROGRAM IS A FAIR ONE. HE EMPHASIZED TECHNICAL NATURE OF ICEBREAKER VISITS, ASSERTING THAT THE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW FIRSTHAND ICEBREAKER OPERATIONS WOULD BE INVALUABLE EVEN THOUGH SHIPS THEMSELVES WERE OF FINNISH ORIGIN. AYKAZYAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SOVIET SPECIALISTS WOULD ACCOMPANY USDEL THUS PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR "TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS." SCICOUNS STRONGLY REBUTTED AYKAZYAN'S ARGUMENTS, GOING OVER POINT BY POINT RECORD OF DECEMBER 2 DISCUSSION  
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WITH ALEKSENKO, WHICH AYKAZYAN DID NOT DISPUTE.

6. CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION ENSUED ON THE NATURE OF SEMINAR-WORKSHOP WHICH WAS PROPOSED IN CONJUNCTION WITH USDEL VISIT. AYKAZYAN STATED SOVIETS AWAIT US COMMENTS ON TOPICS PROPOSED BY SOVIETS (PARA 2, REF A) TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR ORGANIZING SEMINAR. HE ADDED THAT THE SOVIETS EXPECT USDEL TO PRESENT PAPERS WHICH WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET TECHNICAL EXPERTS. SOVIETS, HOWEVER, WILL NOT PRESENT PAPERS, HOLDING THESE FOR PRESENTATION TO LARGE US AUDIENCE DURING RETURN SOVDEL VISIT TO US. SCICOUNS NOTED HERE THAT SOVIET SUGGESTION ON METHOD OF PAPER PRESENTATIONS IS HARDLY THE WAY TO BUILD US CONFIDENCE IN SOVIET INTENTIONS TO INITIATE A TRULY COOPERATIVE PROGRAM, IN VIEW OF THE DIFFICULT HISTORY CONNECTED WITH THIS PROJECT.

7. AYKAZYAN AGREED TO ATTEMPT TO RESTORE ITEMS SUGGESTED BY ALEKSENKO THAT HAD BEEN DROPPED FROM SOVIET PROGRAM. SCICOUNS URGED URGENT SOVIET RECONSIDERATION. BOTH SIDES NOTED THAT ICE-BREAKING SEASON IN AREAS SUGGESTED BY SOVIETS FOR USDEL VISIT ENDS IN MARCH. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE.

8. ON JANUARY 11, DAS LUERS AND POLCOUNS RAISED THIS PROBLEM WITH MFA OFFICIALS, ADDRESSING IT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RENEWAL OF THE TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT.

9. COMMENT. WE FIND THE PRESENT SOVIET PROGRAM ALMOST ENTIRELY UNSATISFACTORY. NOT ONLY HAVE THE SOVIETS FAILED TO INCLUDE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AND A SUBSTANTIVE VISIT TO THE ARCTIC/ANTARCTIC INSTITUTE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT SHIP VISITS ARE ALL TO ICEBREAKERS OF FINNISH DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION AND THUS TO TECHNOLOGY WHICH PRESUMABLY IS READILY ACCESSIBLE TO US. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE NUCLEAR ICEBREAKERS SIBIR' AND ARKTIKA AND THREE DOBRYNYA NIKITCH-CLASS SHIPS BUILT FOR THE SOVIET NAVY, ALL SOVIET ICEBREAKERS COMMISSIONED SINCE 1965 HAVE BEEN BUILT IN THE WARTSILA YARDS IN FINLAND.

10. BY BACKING OFF FROM VISIT PACKAGE OFFERED BY ALEKSENKO, THE SOVIETS PROMPT US TO QUESTION THEIR REAL WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE US SPECIALISTS ACCESS TO MODERN SOVIET ICE-TRANSITING TECHNOLOGY. SCST'S PROTESTATIONS TO THE CONTRARY, IT IS THE US WHICH

IS BEING ASKED TO MAKE THE INITIAL CONTRIBUTION OF  
TECHNICAL INFORMATION I THE FORM OF THE PAPERS TO  
BE READ HERE BY USDEL.

11. WE BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS ARE SEEKING TO TEST  
OUR RESOLVE. ACCORDINGLY, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS  
THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND DOT INFORM THE SOVIETS THAT  
THE VISIT OF USDEL IS BEING POSTPONED PENDING (A)  
RECONSIDERATION OF PRESENT PROGRAM AS AGREED TO BY  
AYKAZYAN AND (B) REVISION OF USDEL VISIT AGENDA TO  
MAKE IT FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THAT OFFERED BY ALEKSENKO  
EARLIER. WE ALSO RECOMMEND US HOLD IN OBEYANCE  
CARGO HANDLING AND PORT OPERATIONS COOPERATION UNTIL  
ICEBREAKER ISSUE IS RESOLVED TO OUR SATISFACTION.  
END COMMENT.

12. FOR DOT: PLEASE ADVISE RESPONSE TO SEMINAR  
TOPICS PROPOSED BY SOVIETS (REF A, PARA 2).  
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## Message Attributes

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